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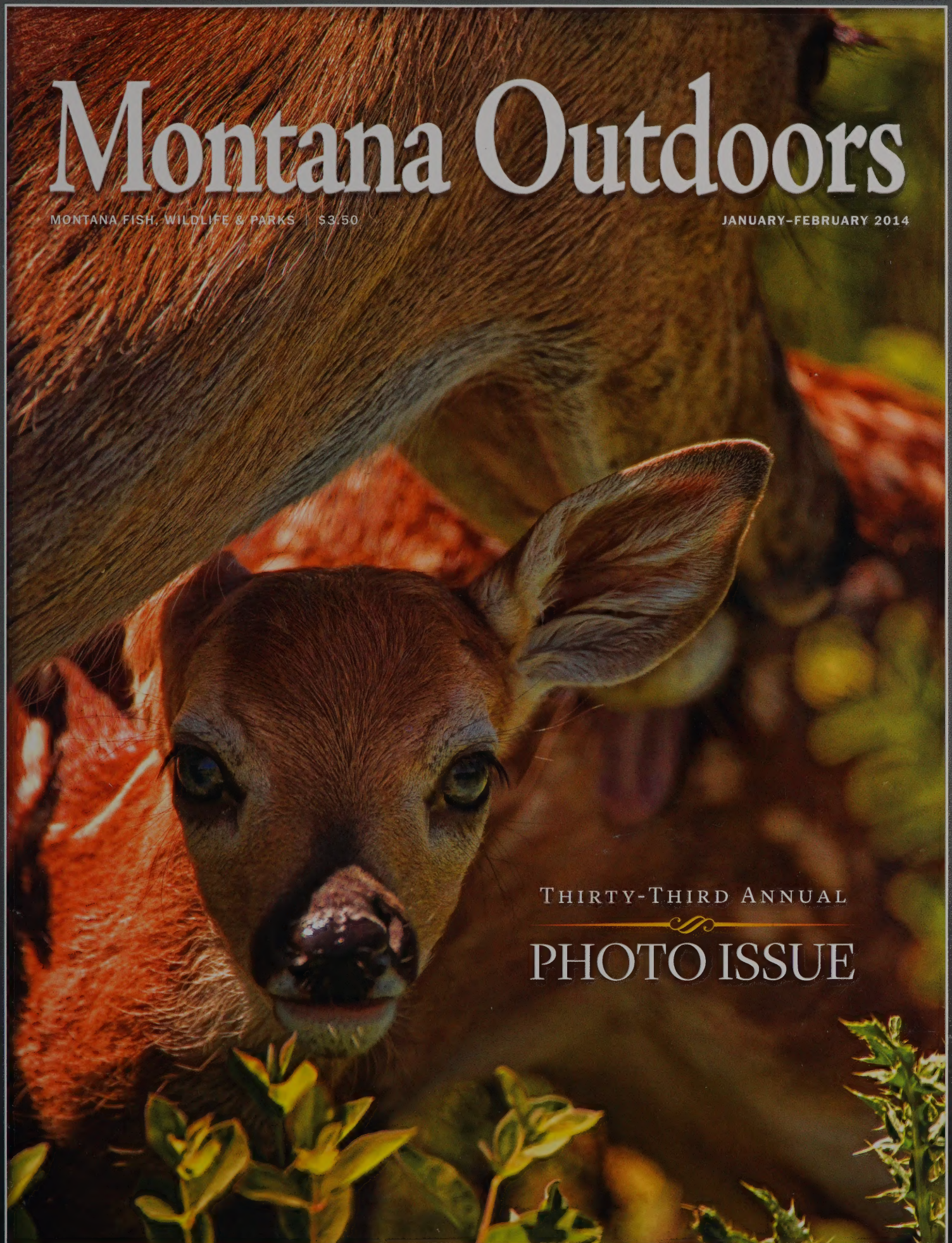
JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2014



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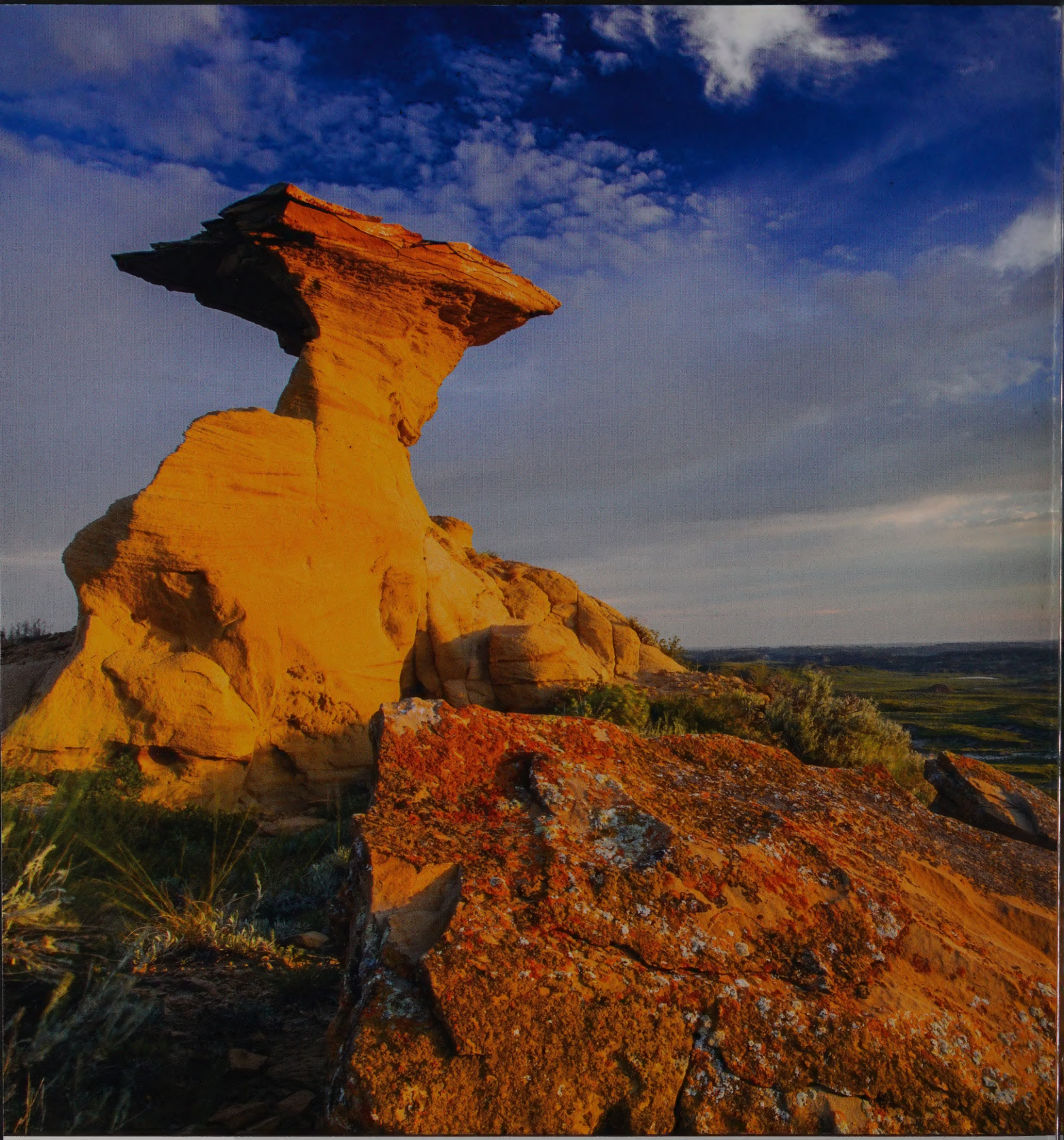

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JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2014

While certainly appropriate for its primary purpose, the language of fisheries and wildlife management and conservation sorely lacks inspiration. "Landscape connectivity," "riparian values," "adaptive harvest," "biologic integrity," "disease vectors," "optimum yield"—not exactly terms that evoke nature's beauty and wonder.

I suppose that's how it should be. Much of fish and wildlife management is based on the biological sciences. The language is necessarily technical and unemotional. Words like "gorgeous," "spectacular," or "spellbinding," don't belong.

Yet that's how people commonly describe the fish, wildlife, and scenic habitats that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is charged with conserving. They talk about seeing an awesome bull moose near Troy, watching a breathtaking sunrise over the Mission Mountains, or stopping the car to marvel at the sight of snow geese "tornadoes" circling Freezeout Lake in April.

They speak of being moved, inspired, thrilled, and awed.

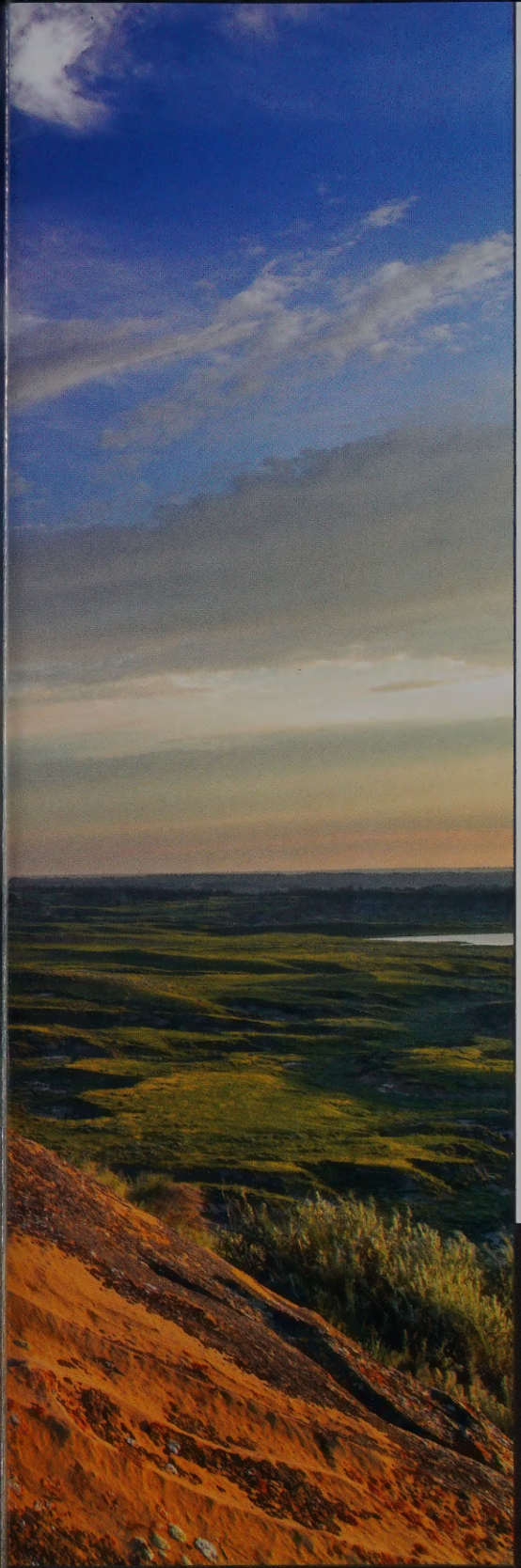
That's one reason we produce the annual photo issue. It visually depicts what FWP is working to conserve—and what the esoteric, scientific language of fish and wildlife management can't capture.

This collection of stunning photography is a delight in its own right. Readers tell us it's one of the reasons they subscribe, that it helps them discover—and rediscover—the wildlife and wild places that make Montana such a great place to live and visit.

The photo issue is also a visual representation of what management terms like "impact mitigation strategies," "habitat fragmentation," and "annual recruitment" truly represent. Which is to make sure that people today and years from now can see the elegance of a northern pintail drake, or take in the unspoiled limestone-studded landscapes of eastern Montana, or glimpse a whitetail doe licking her newborn fawn.

Hard-nosed scientific study and calculation are essential for effective fish and wildlife management. But equally important are occasional reminders of the wondrous wildlife and scenic splendors that the biological sciences are employed to conserve.

—Editor



CHUCK HANEY
Above: Sculpted limestone formation at Hell Creek State Park near Jordan

JAIME AND LISA JOHNSON
Cover: Whitetail doe and fawn near Lincoln

TONY BYNUM
Left: A northern pintail drake takes flight at Freezeout Lake Wildlife Management Area

SHANNA MAE SWANSON
Above: A bolt of lightning over Jeffers

SEAN R. HEAVEY
Left: Passing storm, near Glasgow

KEN ARCHER
Bald eagles in courtship

STEVEN GNAM
Black-billed magpie

Tom Reichner

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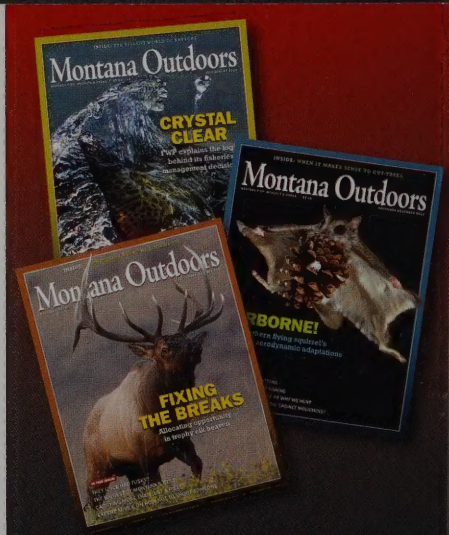

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- hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching

Plus the annual photo issue!

JESSE LEE VARNADO
Northern flicker (red-shafted)

JEFF VAN TINE
Tree swallows

STEVE MITCHELL
Above: Bull moose, Glacier National Park

KENTON ROWE
Left: Cow moose and calf, Bridger Mountains

Clockwise from top left:

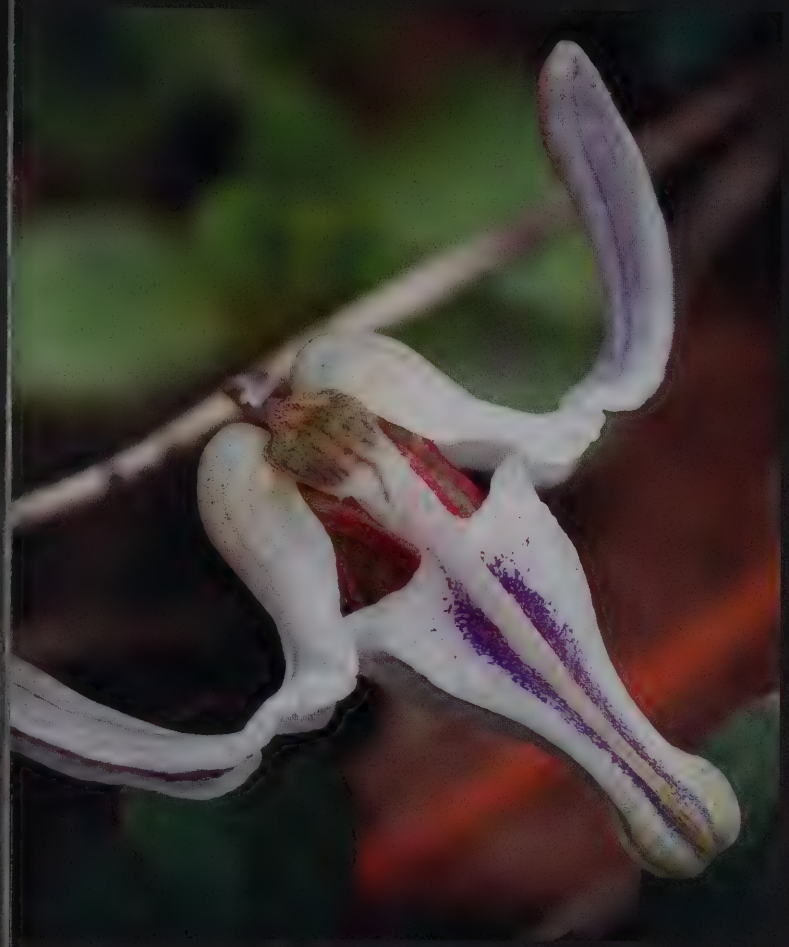
ZACK CLOTHIER
Arrowleaf balsamroot and lupine, near Lulu Pass

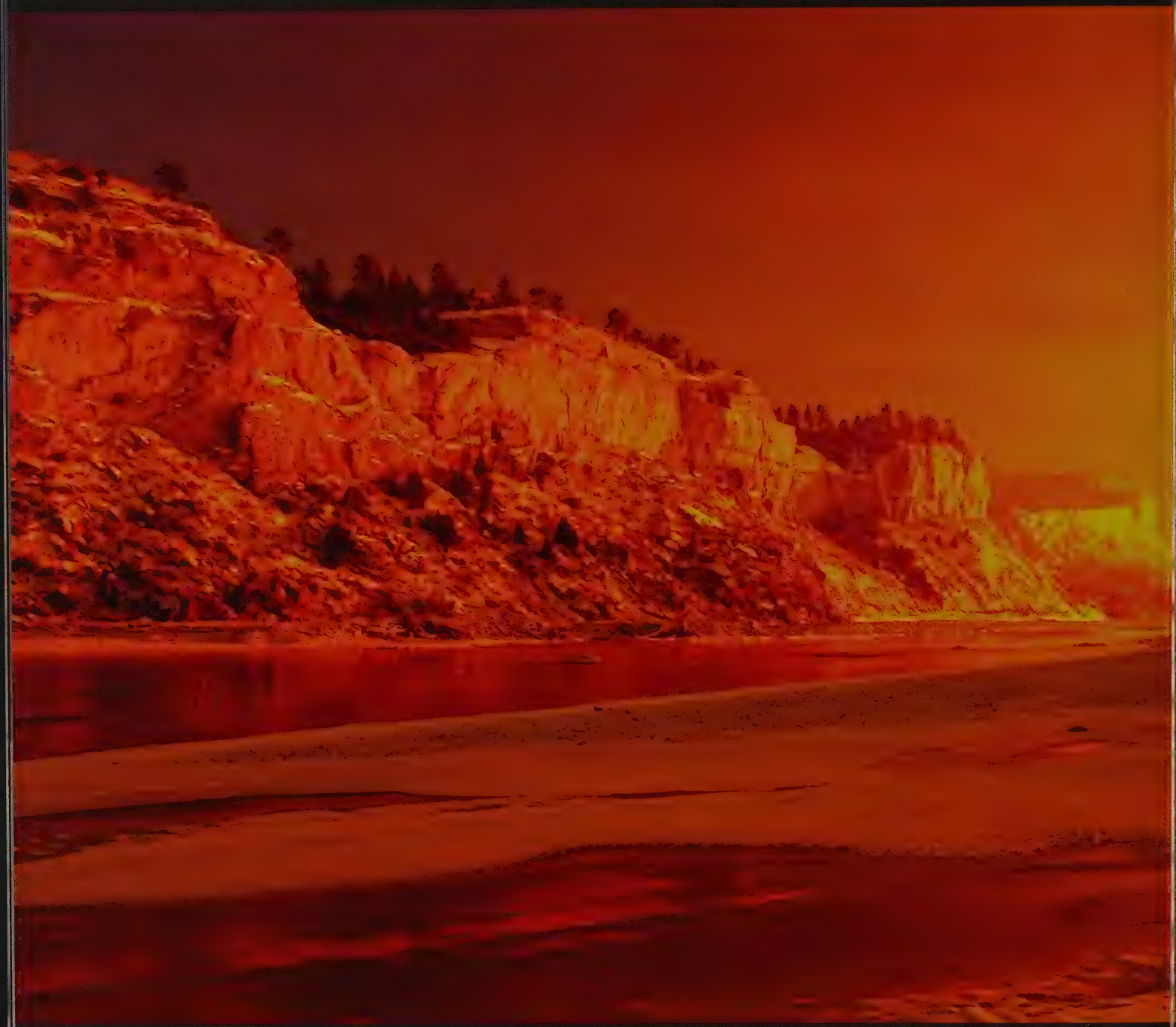
JIM STREETER
Steer's head

LINDA S. MARTIN
Pipsissewa (prince's pine)

TOM ULRICH
Red-spotted saxifrage

JOHN LAMBING
Fuzzy-tongue penstemon





JEFF HANDLIN
Above: Evening light at Sacrifice Cliff, part of the Rimrocks sandstone formation along the Yellowstone River near Billings

CHRIS MCGOWAN
Above: Red-winged blackbird, Lake Helena

TIM RUBBERT
Top left: Fungus on old stump in the Stillwater State Forest, near Whitefish.

JOHN ASHLEY
Top right: Montana six-plume moth

BECCA WOOD
Top: American dipper (water ouzel), the Gardner River

KC GLASTETTER
Above: Icicles at Lake McDonald, Glacier National Park

CINDY GOEDDEL
Right: Pronghorn buck fording the Gardner River

SEAN R. HEAVEY
Above: Ducks at dawn over wetlands, near Nashua

KELLY S. MORRIS
Above: Canada geese taking flight as the sun rises over the Bridger Mountains, near Manhattan

JOHN WARNER
Above: Canada geese lit with the last rays of sun on a fall evening

DENVER BRYAN
Above: Waterfowl hunter setting decoys with his Labrador retriever

JAIME AND LISA JOHNSON
Above: Black-tailed prairie dog, near Zortman

JIM HERRLY
Left: Young porcupine

Clockwise from facing page:

ROWAN NYMAN
Broad-tailed hummingbird

KEVIN LUOMA
Rufous hummingbird

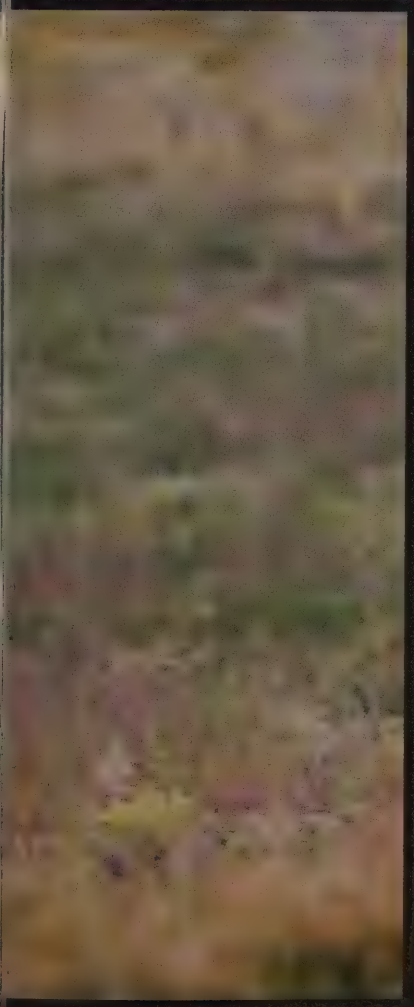
BOB MARTINKA
Calliope hummingbird

STEVEN AKRE
Rufous hummingbird

ZACK CLOTHIER
Morning light at Many Glacier Valley, Glacier National Park

KERRY T. NICKOU
Right: Bull elk,
National Bison Range

CINDY GOEDDEL
Below: Bull and cow elk
near the Roosevelt Arch,
Yellowstone National Park



VICTOR SCHENDEL
Above: Cow elk with calves

CAROL POLICH
Above: American robin feeding on a mountain ash

KEN ARCHER
Right: Common redpoll

ALEX BADYAEV
Left: Mountain bluebird, Blackfoot River Valley

GARY KRAMER
Below: Ring-necked pheasant rooster crowing, near Glasgow

PAUL VECSEI
Above left: Arctic grayling

JEREMIE HOLLMAN
Above: Brown trout in an angler's net

JOSHUA BERGAN
Left: Fishing a central Montana creek

SEAN R. HEAVEY
Above: Little old house on the prairie, near Hinsdale

SHAWN T. STEWART
Right: Mule deer buck at sunset, Carbon County

JAIME AND LISA JOHNSON
Left: Canada goose goslings, near Great Falls

DONALD M. JONES
Below: Pronghorn buck, eastern Montana prairie

RICH ANDERSON
Above: Ross Creek Cedars Scenic Area, Kootenai National Forest

G. ALLEN HAY
Right: Settler's cabin on the North Fork of the Flathead River

Clockwise from top left:

KATRIN SPINETTA
Polyphemus moth

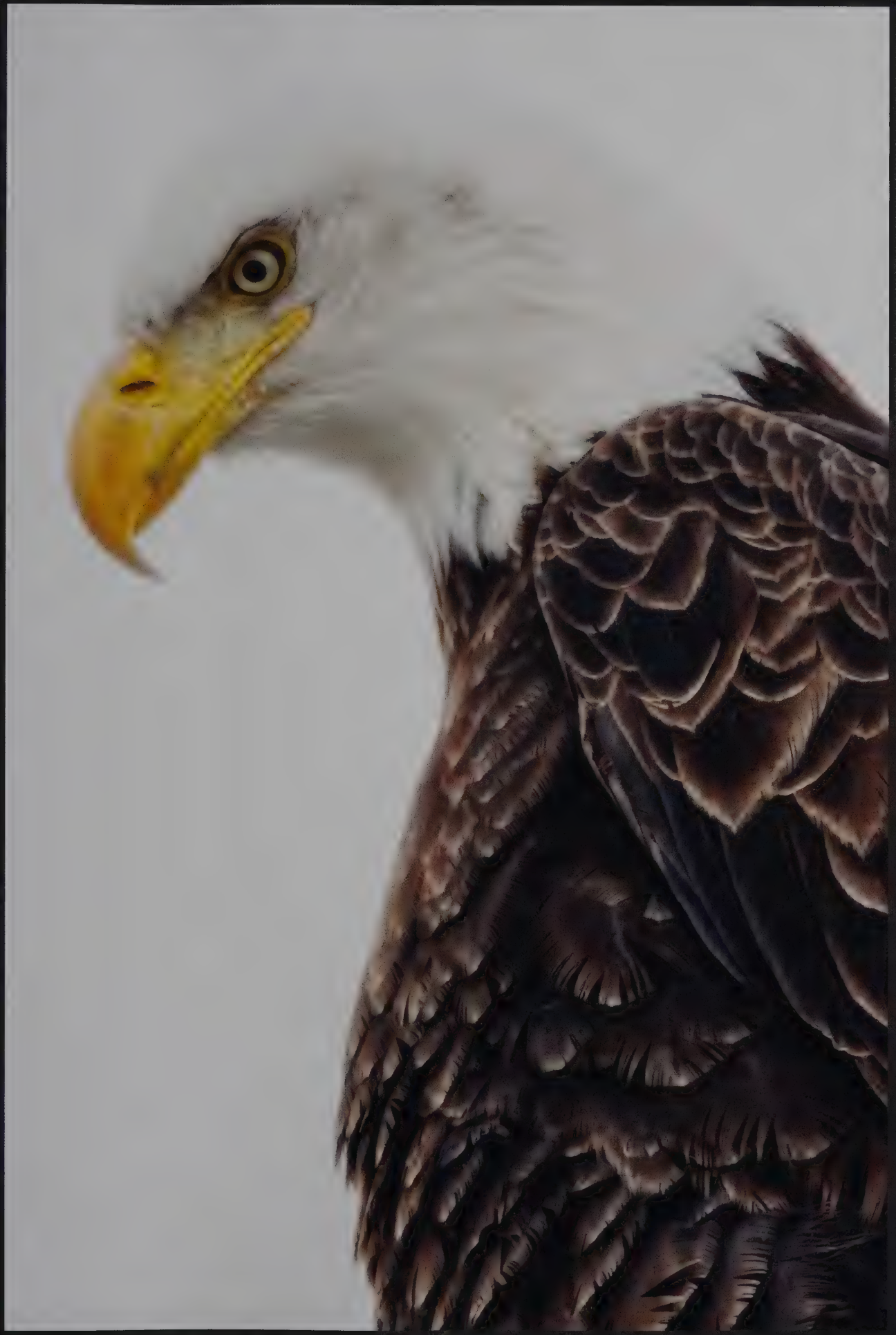
RICK SHEREMETA
Emerging non-native poppy after a light rain, near Polebridge

SHARON DEWART-HANSEN
Dusky (blue) grouse

NATHAN COOPER
Plains garter snake

KENTON ROWE
Above: Golden eagle

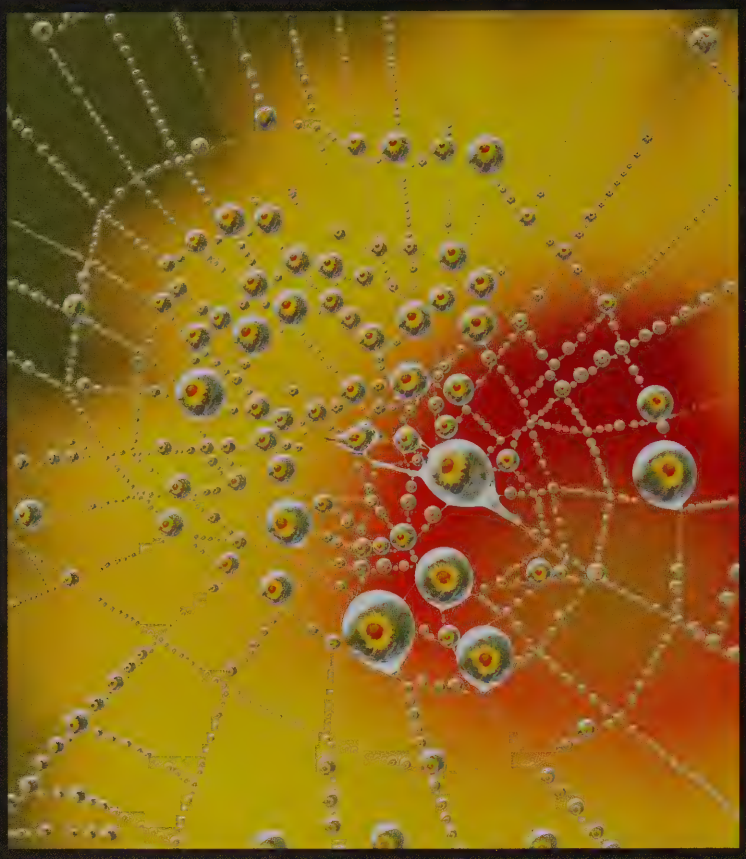
ROWAN NYMAN
Right: Bald eagle



MARY ANN MCDONALD
Facing page: Wet grizzly bear

ROBIN POOLE
Above: Bull elk running through a stream

JOHN O'NEEL
Left: Canada goose flying in snow, Madison Valley



JOHN ASHLEY
Top left: Dew on a spider web refracting a blanketflower image

DICK WALKER
Top right: Feather detail, Merriam's wild turkey

DEE LINNELL BLANK
Bottom left: Bohemian waxwing secondary wing feathers

STEVE LOVAS
Bottom right: Raindrops on quaking aspen leaf

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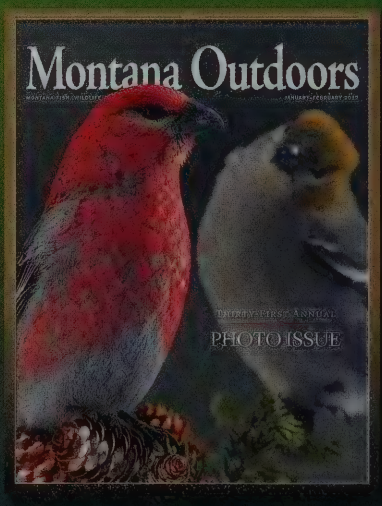

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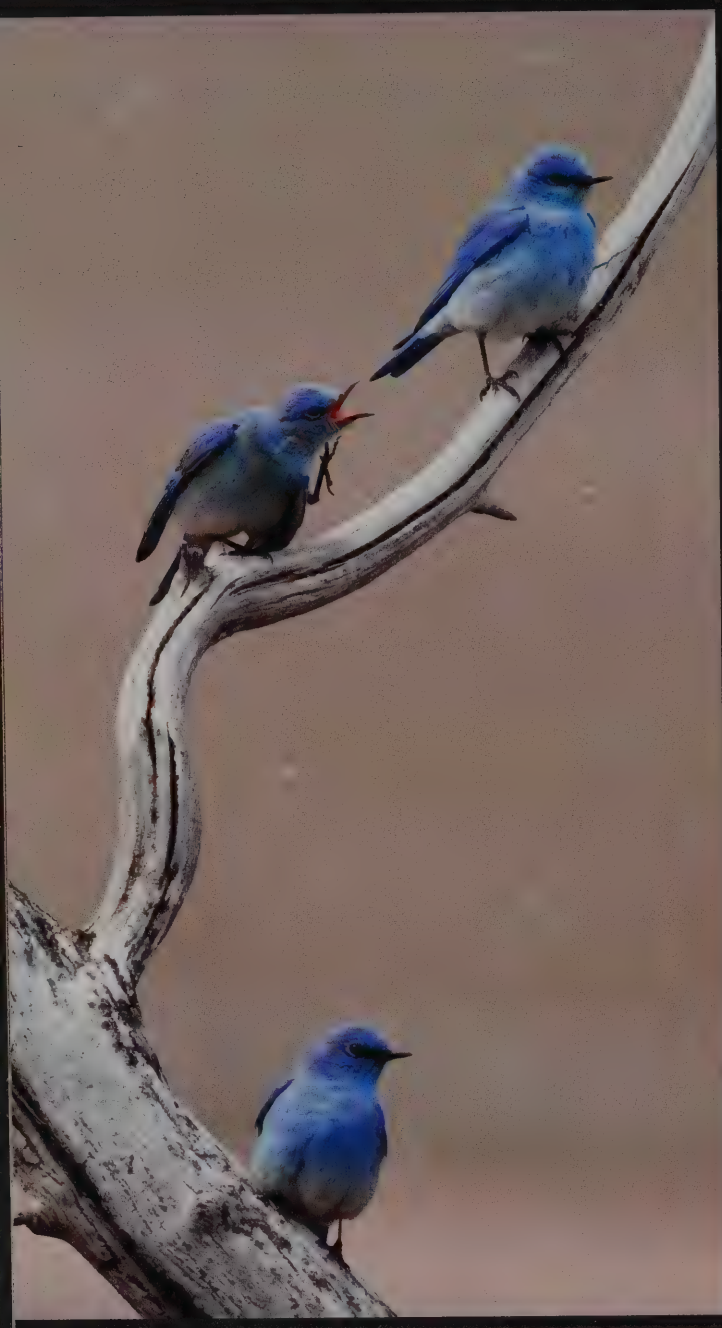
JASON SAVAGE
Sunrise at
St. Mary Lake,
Glacier National Park



ROWAN NYMAN
Above left: Mountain bluebirds in early spring

DONALD M. JONES
Above: Sandhill cranes

KEVIN R. FREDENBERG
Above: Western tanager bathing in a stream

STEVEN GNAM
Far left: Alpenglow and stars, western Montana backcountry

ELIZABETH CLAIRE ROSE
Left: Pasqueflowers

DEA VOGEL
Below: Red fox

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BETHANN GARRAMON MERKLE
Lichens on a rock

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